



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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PSC REF#: 117404

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
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July 27, 2009

TO: Bill Esbeck, Executive Director
Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association (WSTA)

FROM: Gary A. Evenson, Administrator
Telecommunications Division

HA E

RE: Annual Certification of Eligible Telecommunication
Carriers (ETCs) for Eligibility to Receive Federal
High-Cost Fund Support

05-GF-135

Instructions for Filing 2009 Affidavits and Responses to
Questions

By order dated May 23, 2001,¹ the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a requirement (codified in 47 C.F.R. §54.314) that state commissions file an annual certification with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and the FCC regarding all ETCs certified in Wisconsin stating "that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended." This certification is required so that local exchange carriers designated as ETCs remain eligible to receive federal high-cost support.

The FCC left the state commissions and the affected carriers to develop an appropriate mechanism for these annual certifications. In prior years, the Commission has relied upon sworn affidavits submitted for self-certification by the ETCs as the basis for its certification to the FCC and USAC. The Commission will use the same process for annual ETC certifications in 2009.

¹ *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45/CC Docket No. 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256 (FCC 01-157), Rel. May 23, 2001), (FCC Order).

The Commission is in the process of updating the requirements for ETCs in its administrative rules to make them align more closely with the reporting requirements given as guidelines to states by the FCC in its March 17, 2005, order.² Pursuant to that order, the FCC seeks annual reporting of many items. As I did last year, in the absence of updated rules, along with the affidavit, I am asking this year that ETCs identify if they receive federal high-cost funding and, if so, that they provide some information regarding that support and its use.

The Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association (WSTA) has previously volunteered its assistance in this process, and I appreciate that WSTA has once again volunteered to request and gather affidavits and responses to the questions from its member companies and their competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) and wireless ETC affiliates, and deliver them to the Commission, by August 28, 2009. To assure that we do not overlook notifying any non-WSTA member or affiliate ETC, please provide at your earliest convenience a list of those entities from which WSTA will gather filings.

For your convenience, an acceptable affidavit form and a form that provides the questions are provided in Attachment A. **The filings should be submitted via the Commission's Electronic Regulatory Filing (ERF) System. The file number is 05-GF-135. There is a link to ERF on the Commission's web page, at: <http://psc.wi.gov>. Instructions on using ERF can also be found on the website.**

² Report and Order, *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Rel. Mar. 17, 2005, (FCC 05-45)

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These filing will be included in a memorandum for a Commission Open Meeting Agenda in September. The memorandum will address the Commission's certifications to the FCC and USAC and allow for it to be filed by the October 1, 2009 deadline.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jeff Richter, of my staff, at (608) 267-9624.

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Attachment

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF _____)

1. I am the _____ of _____ ("Carrier"),
 (Official title) (Company name)
 Wisconsin Utility Number _____ and FCC Study Area Code _____.

6. Carrier hereby states that responses to the attached responses to the three questions are complete and accurate.

(signature)

(typed name)

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this day of , 2009.

_____, Notary Public
_____, County, Wisconsin
My Commission Expires _____

Questions for Wisconsin ETCs

_____ (Carrier)
 (Company name)

Wisconsin Utility Number: _____

FCC Study Area Code: _____.

Mark the box with an X for the statement that is true for the Carrier's Wisconsin operations:

Carrier ☐ **does not** receive High Cost Fund support from the federal Universal Service Fund.

[Proceed no further.]

Carrier ☐ **does** receive High Cost Fund support from the federal Universal Service Fund.

[Please answer the following three (3) questions.]

1. What is the amount of federal HCF support received for operations in Wisconsin in 2008 and amount expected to be received in 2009?

2008: \$ _____

2009: \$ _____

2) For what areas (exchanges) is the funding in question 1 provided?

3) High Cost Fund support is provided "for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended." What are the purposes and principal projects for which the monies in question 1 have been or are being used in the areas identified in question 2?

Purposes:

TIME FRAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	COST